

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Walter McNutt, on February 5, 2007 at 2:55 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 271, 1/16/2007; HB 276,
1/16/2007, 1/16/2007, HJ 8
Executive Action: None

00:01:25 Vice-Chairman Heinert took the Chair

HEARING ON HB 271

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:47 Rep. Walter McNutt (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 271, Revise makeup of board of environmental review.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:31 Tom Ebzery, Chairman, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA) Legislative Working Group
00:10:11 Don Quander, Montana Industrial Clean Act Working Group and Summit
00:13:05 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers' Association; Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Montana Water Resources Association
00:15:33 Bud Clinch, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council
00:17:20 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce
00:18:17 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association

EXHIBIT (nah25a01)

00:19:25 Gary Forrester, MDU Resources
00:20:38 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors' Association
00:22:11 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association and Encore for Jerome Anderson
00:23:05 Todd O'Hair, Rio Tinto Energy America
00:23:57 Hailey Beaudry, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
00:25:07 Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce
00:25:40 Margaret Morgan, Holcim Trident Cement Plant

Opponents' Testimony:

00:26:19 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
00:34:19 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council
00:39:01 Ann Brodsky, Legal Counsel to Governor Schweitzer

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:41:56 Rep. Vincent
00:42:26 Ms. Hedges
00:43:31 Rep. Van Dyk
00:44:48 Rep. McNutt
00:47:06 Rep. Ross
00:47:33 Rep. McNutt
00:47:51 Rep. Erickson

00:49:32 Rep. McNutt
00:52:26 Rep. Dickenson
00:54:28 Rep. McNutt
00:54:42 Rep. Ankney
00:56:21 Rep. McNutt
00:57:35 Rep. Barrett
00:57:55 Ms. Hedges
00:58:24 Rep. Barrett
00:58:37 Rep. McNutt

Closing by Sponsor:

00:58:59 Rep. McNutt

HEARING ON HB 276

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:01:25 Rep. Walter McNutt (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 276, Revise rulemaking authority of board of environmental review.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:05:01 Tom Ebzery, Chairman, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA) Legislative Working Group
01:10:31 Don Quander, Smurfitt Stone Container Corporation
01:14:30 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers' Association; Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Montana Water Resources Association
01:15:30 Bud Clinch, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council
01:16:53 Todd O'Hair, Rio Tinto Energy America
01:18:17 Gary Forrester, MDU Resources
01:19:53 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association

EXHIBIT (nah25a02)

01:21:43 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors' Association
01:22:04 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association; Encore for Jerome Anderson
01:22:38 Hailey Beaudry, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
01:23:39 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce
01:23:53 Margaret Morgan, Holcim Trident Cement Plant
01:24:19 Don Allen, WETA

Opponents' Testimony:

01:24:57 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
01:29:37 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council
01:31:49 Ann Brodsky, Legal Counsel to Governor Schweitzer

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:36:47 Rep. Dickenson
01:37:14 Mr. Clinch
01:37:40 Rep. Dickenson
01:38:51 Rep. McNutt
01:40:00 Rep. Erickson
01:43:03 Rep. McNutt
01:43:17 Rep. Barrett
01:44:57 Ms. Brodsky

Closing by Sponsor:

01:47:44 Rep. McNutt
01:52:36 Break

HEARING ON HJ 8

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:00:10 Rep. Gordon Hendrick (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HJ 8, Resolution urging timber sale bonds.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:04:16 Rep. Vincent, House District 2
02:14:52 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
02:17:05 Ellen Engstedt, Montana Wood Products Association
02:19:21 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)
02:20:52 Hailey Beaudry, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
02:23:39 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)
02:25:45 Don Montelius
02:27:52 Willie Duffield, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Petroleum Counties

Opponents' Testimony:

Informational Testimony:

02:28:54 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison to State Government

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:29:19 Rep. Dickenson
02:31:42 Rep. Vincent

02:33:42 Rep. Erickson
02:34:38 Rep. Hendrick
02:38:49 Rep. Barrett
02:39:20 Rep. Hendrick
02:40:43 Rep. Ross
02:41:09 Ms. Engstedt
02:42:18 Rep. McNutt
02:43:48 Rep. Heinert
02:44:04 Mr. Meyer

Closing by Sponsor:

02:46:04 Rep. Hendrick

ADJOURNMENT

02:48:45 Adjournment: 5:40 P.M.

REP. RALPH HEINERT, Vice-Chairman

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah25aad.pdf](#))